

Appl. No. 10/064,283
Amdt. Dated 10/16/2003
Reply to Office action of 09/03/2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [003] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[003] It is known in the art of steam turbines to position seals (e.g. brush seals or labyrinth-brush seals) with cobalt-based bristles in a circumferential array between the rotor of the turbine and the circumferentially surrounding casing to minimize steam-path leakage. Springs hold the seals radially inward against surfaces on the casing that establish radial clearance between the seal and a rotor but allow segments to move radially outward in the event of rotor contact. While the seals with cobalt-based bristles have proved to be quite reliable in steam turbines at temperatures between about 500°F and about 1100°F (also known as high temperatures) and pressures between about 140psia and about 3500psia (also known as high pressures), wear performance of such seals, in conjunction with a NiCrMoV or CrMoV rotor, degrade over time at temperatures between about 100°F and about 500°F (also known as low temperatures) and pressures up to 140psia (also known as low pressures). In some cases, steam turbines used in nuclear plants comprise such seals with cobalt-based bristles that, at times, ~~become radioactive if exposed to steam that has been exposed to neutron flux in the reactor~~ result in radioactivity. As a result, disposal of the seals as radioactive waste becomes problematic.